



FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM

Retail Food Code Revision Update

December 2003

ACTIVITY	EXPECTED TIMELINE	DATE COMPLETED
Stakeholder meetings to identify need to revise rule	Summer 2001	Summer 2001
Recommendation to State Board of Health	Nov. 2001	Nov. 2001
File CR101	Nov. 2001	Nov. 2001
Initial Public Meetings	Jan. – Mar. 2002	Mar. 2002
Organize Core Workgroup	June 2002	June 2002
Public Comments on Chapters 1&2 due to DOH	June 19, 2002	June 19, 2002
Hold Initial Core Workgroup	July 31, 2002	July 31, 2002
Special Issue Subcommittees begin	July 2002	July 2002
On-going core workgroup meetings and stakeholder work	July 2002 – June 2003	June 2003
Draft rules	June – Aug 2003	Aug. 2003
Statewide stakeholder meetings	Aug. – Sept. 2003	Sept. 2003
Core Workgroup review of stakeholder input	Oct. 2003	Nov. 2003
Board of Health briefing	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2004
Revise draft rules	Jan. – Feb. 2004	
Prepare Significant Analysis and SB Impact Statement	March - July 2004	
File CR 102	Aug. 2004	
Public Hearing	Sept. 2004	
Respond to stakeholder comments, prepare Concise Explanatory Statement	Sept. – Oct. 2004	
File CR 103	Nov. 2004	
Rule becomes law	Dec. 2004	

Recent Issues and Activities

- ◆ Department of Health staff held eighteen public workshops across the state in September to present the initial draft of the retail food code revision. Over 175 people, representing the public and various stakeholders, attended the meetings. There were many comments received.
- ◆ The Core Workgroup reviewed the public comments received on the initial draft rule revisions at meetings in October and November. A number of changes were recommended based on the comments received during the public workshops.
- ◆ The Food Safety Review Council (FSRC) held its initial meeting in September. The FSRC will work in partnership with the Department of Health in developing advisory technical interpretations of the state food service regulations and other matters relating to WAC 246-215. The FSRC has been endorsed by the Environmental Health Directors, the State Board of Health and state industry associations.

Next Steps

- ◆ The Department will brief the State Board of Health on January 14, 2004 regarding the progress made revising the food service rule.
- ◆ A second draft code revision will be prepared and additional public meetings will be held across the state in February and March 2004 to share the re-draft.
- ◆ The FSRC will hold its second meeting on January 15, 2004 in Seattle.

For detailed information about the food rule revision process and related timelines, please see the Department of Health web page at:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/FoodRuleMain.htm>

or call Jennifer Tebaldi, Office Director, at (360) 236-3325